

Message Text

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ACTION FBO-05

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4153

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ABLD, AFSP, GE

SUBJECT: EAST BERLIN PROPERTIES

REF: A. BERLIN 1836

B. BERLIN 1750

1. PENDING RECEIPT OF MORE AUTHORITATIVE STATEMENT PROMISED BY GEYER OF FOREIGN MINISTRY (REF A), DEPARTMENT MAY BE INTERESTED IN FOLLOWING UPDATED STATUS REPORT ON PROPERTIES TO BE RENTED BY USG IN EAST BERLIN. MISSION OFFICERS AND GSO-DESIGNATE SMALL CONDUCTED SURVEY ON OCTOBER 9 OF ALL PROPERTIES EXCEPT HOUSE ON MAJAKOWSKIRING. RECOGNIZING THAT WE MAY NOT BE QUALIFIED TO JUDGE STATE OF RENOVATIONS WORK AND EXACTLY WHEN VARIOUS PROPERTIES WILL BE READ FOR OCCUPANCY, OFFICERS' OBSERVATIONS DO SUPPLEMENT OUR PREVIOUS REPORTING (REF B) AND MAY BE USEFUL TO DEPARTMENT IN ITS FORWARD PLANNING.

2. SCHADOWSTRASSE TEMPORARY CHANCERY. ALTHOUGH FRONT EXTERIOR SCAFFOLDING STILL IN PLACE ON BUILDING, INTERIOR FINISHING ON FIFTH AND SIXTH FLOORS IS WELL ADVANCE. ELEVATOR INSTALLED AND APPARENTLY WORKING AND WORK IN PROGRESS ON TELEPHONE AND ELECTRICAL CIRCUITRY. FROM ALL APPEARANCES, DLA HAS GIVEN TOP PRIORITY TO EARLY COMPLETION OF CONSTRUCTION WORK. WE ESTIMATE, HOWEVER, THAT BUILDING WILL NOT BE SUITABLE FOR EMBASSY OCCUPANCY BEFORE NOVEMBER 10-15.

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3. PFELSTRASSE 14A. CONFIRMED THAT RENOVATION WORK IN

FINAL STAGES AND RESIDENCE WILL BE READY NOVEMBER 1 AS PROMISED. QUALITY OF WORK ON INTERIOR APPEARS REASONABLY GOOD EXCEPT FOR GARISH WALLPAPER IN DOWNSTAIRS ENTRANCE HALLS.

4. PFELSTRASSE 10. OFFICER NOT PERMITTED BY WORKMEN TO INSPECT THIS PROPERTY. HOWEVER, WE DETERMINED THAT RENOVATION WORK JUST COMMENCING. FIRST PRIORITY BEING GIVEN TO LAYING NEW PIPES AND POSSIBLY WEATHERPROOFING FOUNDATION OF HOUSE. NO INTERIOR WORK SEEMS TO HAVE BEGUN YET, SO WE ESTIMATE THAT RESIDENCE CAN NOT POSSIBLY BE READY FOR OCCUPANCY BEFORE 60 DAYS EARLIEST.

5. LEIPZIGERSTRASSE APTS. FROM OUTSIDE, IT IS DIFFICULT TO DETERMINE EXACTLY WHEN THESE APTS WILL BE READY SINCE USUAL GDR PRACTICE IS TO COMPLETE LIVING UNITS SO THEY CAN BE OCCUPIED, WITH WORK ON GROUNDS AND APPROACHES TAKING SECOND PRIORITY. SINCE ELEVATOR DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE INSTALLED YET, AND AREA IMMEDIATELY SURROUNDING APTS UNCLEARED OF CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS AND TOOLS, CONSENSUS OF ALL OFFICERS VIEWING PROPERTY WAS THAT APTS WOULD LIKELY NOT BE HABITABLE FOR AMERICAN FAMILIES FOR AT LEAST 90 DAYS.

6. DECON 12/31/74.KLEIN

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